DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 121 561 RC 009 172

TITLE	Report of the Nebraska Indian Commission -- July - December 1972.
INSTITUTION	Nebraska Indian Commission, Lincoln.
PUB DATE	Dec 72
NOTE	19p.; For related documents, see RC 009 171 and 173-174
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS	*American Indians; *Annual Reports; Economic Development; Educational Improvement; Employment; Housing; Interagency Cooperation; Legal Aid Projects; Medical Services; Needs Assessment; Nonreservation American Indians; *Objectives; *Population Distribution; *Research Projects; Reservations (Indian); Rural Areas; Self Actualization; Urban Areas; Welfare
IDENTIFIERS	*Nebraska Indian Commission

ABSTRACT

Emphasizing the improving status of the Nebraska American Indian, this second report (July-December 1972) of the Nebraska Indian Commission presents the following: (1) Commission Membership; (2) Record of Events (a chronological list of meetings, etc); (3) The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives, Research, and Achievements (emphasis on inter-agency coordination/cooperation/communication); (4) Activities (emphasis on the liaison role of the Commission); (5) Research Projects Identified by Objectives and Results in Housing, Education and Training, Welfare, Medical-Dental Care, Employment, Economic Development, and Legal Services (among the results reported are: need for more housing on all reservations; numerous educational programs now operative on all three reservations; Public Health Services available to reservation Indians but limited medical-dental services available to non-reservation Indians; lack of employment opportunities correlated with inadequate training, poor economic development, and outright discrimination); (6) A Comprehensive Review of the American Indian in Nebraska (a study revealing: there are 14,451 Nebraska Indians located primarily on reservations; the greatest unmet needs are among Indians in the rural northern and western areas of the State; the priority needs are self-determination, employment, and education). (JC)

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REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

JULY - DECEMBER

1972

ROBERT B. MACKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

RC009172

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1972

LEONARD SPRINGER (DECEASED)----------OMAHA TRIBE

EDWARD CLINE (WITHDREW TRIBE)----------OMAHA TRIBE

VICTOR ROBINSON----------OMAHA TRIBE

GORDON BEAVER----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

ELWOOD HARDING----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

FELIX WHITE----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

DONALD LAPOINTE----------SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE

WILLARD MACKEY, SR.----------SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE

GORDON KITTO, SR.----------SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE

OLIVER SAUNSACI-LINCOLN INDIAN CENTER ----------OMAHA TRIBE

MARION PENISKA-OMAHA - A.E.C. - I.C.I.A.----------PONCA TRIBE

PETER THOMAS-OMAHA - I.C.C.A.----------OMAHA TRIBE

CARL JANIS-AT LARGE MEMBER-REPRESENTING THE ORGANIZED AND
THE UNORGANIZED WESTERN NEBRASKA INDIANS--------OGALALA SIOUX TRIBE

RECORD OF EVENTS:

Year End 1972 - July through December

JULY: Neligh, Nebraska - On July 16th Attended a dedication ceremony of a marker erected for a Ponca Indian girl who died enroute from Knox County to Oklahoma nearly 95 years ago. The Neligh State Historical Society sponsored this project.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting on Emergency Employment Act

Norfolk, Nebraska - Organizational meeting with the Northern Ponca Indian group who were terminated by the Federal government.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting with State College Board regarding Minority Student Talent Search Coordinator position.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission.

AUGUST: Kansas City, Missouri - Indian Task Force meeting Region VII O.E.O. with Federal Regional Council.

Lincoln, Nebraska - University of Nebraska - Meeting of Health Plan.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting for Legislative Plans 1973

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission.

Norfolk, Nebraska - Meeting of the Northern Ponca Indian group.

Santee-Sioux Tribe Meeting regarding the Chairman of the Tribe.

Kansas City, Missouri - Indian Task Force meeting Region VII O.E.O.

Winnebago, Nebraska - Meeting with Tribal members.

Walthill, Nebraska - Meeting with the Goldenrod Hills CAP.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of State Welfare Advisory Committee.

SEPTEMBER: Santee, Nebraska - Chairman, David Frazier died. Funeral.

Columbus, Nebraska - Talk to St. Luke's Church of Christ.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting State College Board on Talent Search Project.

Kansas City, Missouri - Indian Task Force meeting Region VII O.E.O.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission.

Gering, Nebraska - Meeting with Western Nebraska Indians.

Alliance, Nebraska - Meeting with Western Nebraska Indians.

Gordon, Nebraska - Meeting with Western Nebraska Indians.

Continued.

Valentine, Nebraska - Meeting with Western Nebraska Indians.

Norfolk, Nebraska - Meeting with Indians residing in this area.

Kansas City, Missouri - Meeting of the Federal Regional Council, Region VII, O.E.O.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Nebraska Historical Society meeting with League of Women Voters.

Bismark, North Dakota - Governor's Council for Indians Conference.

OCTOBER:

Lincoln, Nebraska - Talk to East High School History Class.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting with Cooperative Ministries of Nebraska Indians.

Lincoln, Nebraska - University of Nebraska, Education Extension Work Group.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission.

Weeping Water, Nebraska - Meeting with the Nebraska Federation of Women's club.

North Platte, Nebraska - Conference of Governor's Human Resources.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting to organize Nebraska United Indians.

NOVEMBER:

Santee, Nebraska - Meeting with Santee-Sioux Tribal members.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting with University of Nebraska Education Extension Work Group.

Phoenix, Arizona - U. S. Civil Rights Commission Hearings.

Exeter, Nebraska - Talk to Methodist Church Womens group.

Fremont, Nebraska - Meeting at Midland Lutheran College with State College Board.

DECEMBER:

Sioux City, Iowa - Meeting with Indians residing there to organize under Region VII.

Northridge, California - Indian conference at San Fernando state University.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Talk to History class at East High School.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Talk to Millard-Lefler Junior High School History class.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Talk to East High School Philosophy class.

Lincoln, Nebraska - Meeting of the Nebraska Indian Commission

THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Nebraska Indian Commission projects itself towards the total Indian community including the three reservations and those Indians who live off of the reservations in the rural and urban areas, therefore the success of the Commission's operation depends heavily upon the best possible relationship with all the principles involved which includes the Tribal Chairman, Director of Urban Indian Centers, and the heads of Federal, State, County and other agencies. Communication with these offices represents a vital source of information from these Indian people and recommendations for possible solutions are directed to the Indian Commission.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is constantly on the alert to identify the problems of the Nebraska Indian community and develop programs where programs do not exist.

In the succeeding pages of this report there will be indications of the Findings of the Nebraska Indians and the subsequent actions pursued by the Indians themselves in the involvement of their own affairs.

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

ACTIVITIES

THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

There is active participation by the Commission with all local, on and off-reservation Indians and all other Indians living in the State of Nebraska.

The Commission is also concerned with the special problems of the urban and metropolitan Indian organizations and groups.

The Commission serves as a link between these organizations and other people who may be non-Indian who are seriously desirous of assisting the Nebraska Indians in resolving some of their problems.

The Commission is in communication with other State Indian Commissions across the nation.

The Commission works closely with Tribal Councils to assist in identifying the priority needs of the reservation areas and to compile comprehensive information to help develop solutions to these many problems.

The Commission works with Indian leaders from the off-reservation organizations to help them identify their priority problems and to receive suggestions from the Indians themselves in these matters.

The Commission is in constant communication with the State and Federal Agencies relating to Indian Affairs.

The Indian Commission works in close cooperation with the Office of The Governor and the Legislative body.

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

HOUSING

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Housing are:

> To assist the three Tribal Reservation Indians and Urban reservation Indians and Urban and Metropolitan Indian groups to develop Housing Programs.

RESULTS:

The Nebraska Indian Commission has been actively involved in assisting the Indians of Nebraska in procuring housing programs through H. U. D. programs as well as emergency H. I. P. for interim housing needs.

There is still a substantial need for more housing on all reservations.

There is little or no federal housing programs in the urban and metropolitan areas for the Indian people, and the Nebraska Indian Commission is continually pressing for more housing for the Indians in these areas.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Education are:

> To find and report the educational and training needs to the State and Federal Agencies and to the educational programs at the University, and other institutions of higher education.

RESULTS:

On all three reservations there are Headstart Programs, New Classroom Facilities, Special Native Language and Cultural Classes, Manpower Training School Programs, Upward Bound Programs, Teacher Tutorial Programs, Special University Counseling Courses, Curriculum Development Programs, University Scholarships, Student Financial Assistance Programs, a Mobile Library for the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes. The Nebraska Indians administrate the Johnson-Omalley Funds and the Nebraska Indians also administrate the Talent Search Project, which will enable Indians to participate in Administration, Recruitment, and Counseling Indian Students.

WELFARE

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Welfare are :

> To find and report the welfare needs to the County, State, and Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies.

RESULTS:

At the present time, all three Tribal Reservations by policy receive 90 days interim assistance from the B.I.A. until the Indian client is processed into the county and state welfare program. Assistance to the Nebraska Indians has been extremely limited, however this has been brought to the attention of State and Federal offices and some improvements have been made.

The State Welfare Department has hired an Indian staff person for the ethnic minorities of Nebraska.

MEDICAL - DENTAL CARE

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Medical-Dental care are:

> To assist all Indian Health agencies and others to identify the existing health problems including specific health related problems, lack of communication and service.

RESULTS:

Public Health Services are available for all three Indian Reservations. In urban and metropolitan areas there is limited medical services under University programs, but medical and dental service to Indians is limited.

At the Santee-Sioux Indian Reservation, a special dental program for adults proved to be successful. There is a Community Health Representative program on all three reservations. The Winnebago tribe has an Alcohol Rehabilitation Program approved and funded. The Omaha Tribe is operating and ALIVE program for feeding the poor. "Project Concern," A privately funded medical clinic plans to offer services in Western Nebraska. The University of Nebraska medical college is contemplating a medical clinic in Rural areas.

EMPLOYMENT

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Employment are:

> To assist the Indian people by improving communications and working relationship between employment offices and the Indian community.
>
> By having Indian Employment workers who have gone directly to the three reservations.
>
> To find ways to develop employment possibilities.
>
> To promote vocational training programs.

RESULTS:

It has been determined that the Indians of Nebraska have not been able to enjoy suitable and renumerative employment because the Indians have not had adequate educational training opportunities to become competitive.

The Nebraska Indians have been exploited and have been victims of outright discrimination practices.

Two of the three tribes have developed jobs for many of their people by some Industrial Development and government contracts. The future of the Nebraska Indians in the Employment picture is good and will improve, as Economic Development expands in this State.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Economic Development are:

The three tribes of Nebraska are involved in an active organization called the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Economic Development, Inc. for the purpose of utilizing the greatest economic potential for the State of Nebraska in the human and natural resources in its Indian citizens. For too long a time the Nebraska Indians have been kept out of sight and were deprived an equal place in the sun.

RESULTS:

The Winnebago tribe has utilized its Industrial Park and has one of several industrial programs in operation for the purpose of offering employment and training opportunities for its tribal members on the reservation.

The Omaha tribe has been active in government contract work offering employment to its tribal members, and by Federal work programs.

All three tribes have strong economic development potential in the natural resources that are untapped, with the Tourist and year-round Recreation in great demand.

The three tribes will emerge as very strong economic development potentials because of new educational and training opportunities, and by virtue of industries that will be brought in to the reservations.

LEGAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Legal Services are:

To seek ways of meaningful communication and cooperation between Indian reservation officials and the offices of the State Attorney General, State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Game and Parks Commission, County Sheriffs, and Chiefs of Police, and the State Crime Commission.

To establish means and procedures for identifying the conflicts and disagreements arising from cultural differences.

To assist the three tribes in providing a full range of equitable Law and Order services for the Nebraska Indian community.

Of the several Federally funded Legal Services in this State none have the jurisdiction to offer legal counsel, when Civil Rights problems exceed all other problems of Indians in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has received a $2,000 grant from the National Indian Lutheran Board to initiate a Legal Assistance Program for the Indians of Nebraska.

RESULTS:

The Omaha Indian Tribe in Thurston County has been granted a Retrocession Authority in regard to Tribal Law and Order wherein the Federal government has jurisdiction in the major crimes committed on their reservation.

The Winnebago Indian Tribe in Thurston County are studying the feasibility of also seeking Retrocession Authority, to enable them a fair day in court.

The Santee-Sioux are presently under the jurisdiction of the County and State jurisdiction, however with this tribe's new economic development program, some other Law and Order system will become necessary. Two special police have been assigned to Santee under E.E.A.

All other Indians in the State are under the respective jurisdictions of the County and State Laws.

SUMMARY

The status of the Nebraska Indians is steadily improving because they are now involved in their own affairs, dealing with critical problems of long standing, wherein only Indians clearly identify and have the capabilities to render action in their search for solutions. The Indians have seen the need for organization stability on the reservations as well as in the urban areas. There is no room or time for inter-tribal strife, because unity is now the watch word. It is clearly evident that some tribes are practicing this need for unity, and this is manifested in the vigorous programs in Housing, Health, Education, Welfare, and other important programs on these tribal reservation and in some urban areas.

The Indians of Nebraska extend their sincere gratitude to the many interested Nebraskans in official and in private capacities who have contributed time and effort to the Nebraska Indian cause, particularly to the Eighty-Second Legislature which made the Nebraska Indian Commission a permanent State Agency.

REPORT

DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS

AND

ACTIVITIES OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

1972

JULY DECEMBER

ROBERT B. MACKEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

of the

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. MACKEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 29, 1972

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE HONORABLE J. JAMES EXON
GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68509

Dear Governor Exon:

It is with great pleasure and pride that the Nebraska Indian commission submits this year end report for the period from July through December 1972 in compliance with Section 3. That section 81-1219, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1971 wherein it stipulates that: "The Commission shall make a report annually to the Legislature and the Governor as to the work and accomplishments of the commission".

The Nebraska Indian Commission represents the three established Indian Tribes of the Omaha, Santee-Sioux, Winnebago Tribes and those Indians living in off- reservation, rural, urban, metropolitan areas, and those Indians who live in the panhandle area of Western Nebraska which represents a total of 14,500 Indians.

On May 22, 1971, the Nebraska Indian Commission became a permanent State Agency when you as the Governor of the State of Nebraska signed LB 904 into law.

The need for an Indian Commission to deal with the unique and complex problems has been existent for a long time. Because of the fact that the organized Tribes of Nebraska are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a division of the United States Department of the Interior, under Land Management, and wherein one Tribe the Omaha Tribe whose reservation is located in Thurston County, is under total Federal jurisdiction including Law and Order under Retrocession while the Winnebago Tribe which is located in Thurston County also, and the Santee-Sioux are located in Knox County are under Federal jurisdiction in their Land Management and Programs, however these two Tribes are under Public Law 280 or under local County and State jurisdiction in Law and Order. It is extremely complex and the the fact that Indians are dealing with Indian Affairs, there is visible evidence that many of these problems are being satisfactorily resolved.

The Nebraska Indian Commission wishes to acknowledge the interest and concern of your office in our Indian Affairs, the 1971-72 Legislature, and the State Agencies, and Federal Offices who have extended their cooperation to us as we seek ways to meet the needs of the Nebraska Indians.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Indians of Nebraska now have a State level voice to communicate their problems from the Tribal Government, local Indian Communities to County, State, Federal Regional Offices, and to the Washington, D. C. level.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has proven itself to be a responsible body and have requested only what is rightfully accorded to any other citizen of this state, but always reminding that the Indian Lands taken from the Indians who depended upon the natural resources had their poverty created. The fact that the Indians will negotiate at a conference table must never be mistaken for weakness, but the adaptability of the Indians to function within a system and still survive, is the trait which will enable the Indians of Nebraska to be competitive in the American mainstream.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Mackey

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

FORWARD

1972 YEAR END REPORT

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

The Nebraska Indian Commission, by state statute, serves as the state level voice for 14,500 Nebraska Indians living on three established Federal Indian reservations of the Omaha, and the Winnebago Tribes in Thurston County and the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe in Knox County, and those Indians who reside in rural off-reservation communities, urban and metropolitan areas, with the Tribal government, County, State, the Legislative body, and other elected government officials.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is responsible by state law to, "Join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the cause of Indian Rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians...to promote State and Federal legidlstion beneficial to the Indian community in Nebraska...to coordinate existing programs relating to the Indian community in such areas as: Housing, Education, Welfare, Medical and Dental Care, Employment, Economic Development, Legal Services, and related problems... to work with other state and federal agencies and federal and state elected officials in the development of new programs in areas mentioned above...to keep the Governor's office appraised of the situation in the Indian community...to provide the public with information and education relevant to Indian involvement of Indian people in activities for the common benefit of the Indian Community".

The socio-economic problems which has been the plight of the Nebraska Indians began over a century ago when white settlers began occupying Indian lands with the encouragement and assistance of the United States government by Treaties with the Indians who were forced on to reservations where they were under strict supervision of a Federal Indian Agent. The reservations were invariably selected in isolated areas, where the land was virtually useless and unproductive and as a result of this action the white settlers became prosperous and independent and the Indians suffer incalcuable poverty and neglect because this situation was created for him.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has the responsiblity to bring a better understanding between the white man and the Indian and has devoted much time and effort in this direction.

I. INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

A. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Comprehensive Review of the American Indian In Nebraska is to provide a timely and instructive overview of the current situation in Nebraska with respect to its American Indians. The Review was compiled and published by Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Inc., for the information and use of its member judicatories and particularly those "sponsoring" Service Project 08, the cooperative exploration of Indian Ministry:

The Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church
The Christian Church of Nebraska
The Synod of Nebraska, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
The Church of the Brethren
The Nebraska Diocese, Protestant Episcopal Church
The Lutheran Church in America, Nebraska Synod
Church Women United

B. AUTHORIZATION. This study was authorized by the Board of Directors, June 15, 1971, in response to an initiative from the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Board directed the preparation of a Comprehensive Review for submission as a reference document to representatives of the participating church groups as they explore the possibilities of cooperative ministry in this area.

C. SCOPE. Three basic categories of information were sought for this Review: 1) The number, location and size of major Indian population concentrations (Areas) in the state; 2) the general and specific needs existing among Indians and the relative importance of each and the degree those needs are met in each area; 3) the nature and extent of services presently available to Nebraska Indians vis-a-vis the needs and the source of those services.

D. SOURCES: Information was obtained from three basic sources: 1) Published reports from related governmental agencies, such as, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; 2) extended interviews with the Nebraska Indian Commissioner; 3) Two field trips, one to Sioux City, Omaha, Winnebago and Macy, July 29-30, and another to Scottsbluff, Alliance, Gordon, Chadron and Crawford, August 19 and 20. Robert Mackey, of the Indian Commission, traveled with Staff on the latter trip.

E. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.

1. The Indian population of the state is 14,451 and is generally located in three Reservations, Winnebago and Omaha Reservations in Thurston County and the Santee-Sioux Reservation in Knox County; in six Urban Centers: Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff-Gering, Norfolk, South Sioux City, and Falls City-Rulo; and in the Panhandle.

2. The greatest unmet needs involving the largest number of Indians exists in the non-urbanized areas of northern and western Nebraska: the Santee-Sioux Reservation (Knox County) and the Panhandle (Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan and Sioux Counties).

3. The priority needs defined by Indians and leaders in these areas are: Self-determination (organization), Employment and Education.

II. POPULATION

A. OFF RESERVATION INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

	Area	Tribe	Resident	Migrant
1.	Omaha	Omaha, Winnebago, various Sioux	1,194	2,500
2.	Lincoln	Omaha, Winnebago, various Sioux	600	200
3.	Panhandle	Various Sioux	1,334	1,300
4.	Scottsbluff-Gering	Various Sioux	357	300
5.	South Sioux City	Winnebago, Sioux, Omaha Ponca	200	
6.	Norfolk, etal	Ponca, Santee, Winnebago, Omaha	500	
7.	Falls City-Rulo	Iowa-Sac-Fox	110	
8.	Others		1,000	
		OFF RESERVATION TOTALS	5,195	4,400

(Source: CAP 5 Forms, OEO units)

B. PANHANDLE INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

County		Resident	Migrant
DAWES:		275	300
Chadron	135-175		
Crawford	35-65		
BOX BUTTE:		512	400
Alliance	275-300		
SHERIDAN:		583	600
Gordon	310-350		
Rushville	45		
SIOUX:		32	
Panhandle Totals	755-945	1,334	1,300

(Source: N.W. Nebr. CAP - CAP 5 Form; local officials)

C. RESERVATION INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

Reservation	Registered	Resident
1. Winnebago	1,928	877
2. Omaha	1,101*	1,101
3. Santee-Sioux	2,096	244
	5,125 Total	2,222 Total

(Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs)

* No Current Figures Available

D. SUMMARY - 1971 NEBRASKA INDIAN POPULATION

Area	Resident	Migrant
Off-Reservations		
Urban	5,195	4,400
Panhandle	1,334	1,300
Reservation	2,222	
SUBTOTALS	8,751	5,700
RESIDENT & MIGRANT TOTAL	14,451	

E. POPULATION NOTE:

There is considerable fluctuation of Indian population due to influx for seasonal employment in the panhandle and to migration to and from reservations. The Nebraska figures are also influenced by the in-migration, periodically, from Rosebud and Pine Ridge Sioux from South Dakota. In almost every case, local Indian leaders felt the CAP agency figures were minimal.